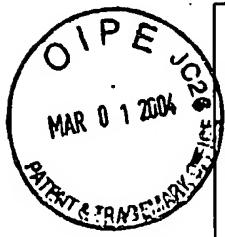


*image*

AF/1772



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February 26, 2004  
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AVERP2544USA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Mitchell J. Rackovan et al. : Group Art Unit: 1772

Serial No: 10/054,620 : Examiner: C. P. Bruenejes

Filed: January 22, 2002 :

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed January 2, 2004 for which a three (3) month period of response is given. This Reply (and any paper referred to as attached) is being filed two (2) months from the mailing date of the above-mentioned Office Action. In view of the amendments and remarks which follow, further and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.